CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

MR. SPEAKER.—Hon. Member Sri H.Viswanath to call attention of the Minister for Finance to the hardship caused to the old age pensioners due to transfer of payment from Taluk Treasuries to District Treasuries. The hon. Member is absent Then, Sri M. Abdul Lateef to call the attention of the Minister for Industries and Commerce.

(*i*) *re : forceful occupation of Barab-E-Khutub at Kolar*

SRI M. ABDUL LATEEF. (Kolar)—Sir, I call the attention of the Minister for Industries and Commerce to the forceful occupation of Musafirkhana known as Barab-e-Khutub (Hungri Hyder Sab Chatra) at Kolar.

SRI AZEEZ SAIT (Minister for Industries, Commerce and Wakfs).- I wish to make the following Statement.—

The Secretary, Karnataka Board of Wakfs has reported that the Musafirkhana known as Bazme-Khutub has been notified under Section 5(2) of the Wakf Act, 1954 in the *Karnataka Gazettee* at Sl. No. 1125 of Kolar District in Board's Notification No. MWB (19) 11-1964 dated 21-7-1965 under the name and style of Bazme-Khutub and Sri K. G. Saleem as its Muthuvalli. But the word that it is a 'Sarai' has been distinctly omitted. This omission will be corrected by issuing a corrigendum to the afore said notification. The property "Makans" was the abode of Fakirs. Due to the nuisance and unclean atmosphere created by them, the police took action and removed them.

It is ascertained that in the litigation between Sri Syed Hajee Syed Usman and the Committee of the Bazme Khutub the former succeeded and secured possession of the property.

The Secretary, Karnataka Board of Wakfs has reported that in all its forms, Bazme-Khutub is a Wakf property and it cannot be construed as a private property. However, enquiries are being made with a view to taking appropriate action to preserve the Makans as wakf property.

SRI M. ABDUL LATHEEF.- Sir, it is not correct to say that the police evicted Fakirs who were residing there. They are residing in that place for the last 50 to 60 years and they are in forceful occupation. It is a very valuable property situated near the National Highway. It is also not correct to say that they are in possession of that property. It is also not correct that even after the litigation the Fakirs were residing there. There is a complaint by the Fakirs to the local police that some persons are harassing them.

Then, in the Municipal record it is shown as non-assessed property. It is only the public properties that are non-assessed by the Municipal authorities. The records of 40 years available at the Municipal Office shows that no assessment has been levied. Sir, this is a very valuable property and the Wakfs Board has not taken any interest to safeguard this property. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister for Wakfs to take all necessary steps to see that this unlawful occupants are evicted and property is saved.

SRI AZEEZ SAIT.—Sir, I have taken note of what the hon. Member has just now said about this property. In my statement I have stated that it is a Wakf property. There is no doubt about it. Now, the question is as per the interim report the police have evicted them. But the hon. Member says the police have not evicted them and further he said they have been evicted by some other peple and they have got forceful occupation of this place. I will get the matter examined in detail and see that this property is saved.

(ii) re hardship caused to the old age Pensioners in transfer of payment from taluk to District Treasuries

SRI H. VISWANATH (K.R. Nagar).—Sir I call the attention of the Minister for finance to the hardship caused to the old age pensioners due to transfer of payment from taluk treasuries to District Treasuries.

SRI S. M. YAHYA (Minister for Finance),—I beg to make the following :—

When the Old Age Pension Schem was first introduced with effect from 1-1-1965, all the Old Age Pensions in a District were paid to the pensioners from the District Treasury only through money orders. The work was decentralised and the payment in respect of each Taluk was entrusted to the respective Sub-Treasuries. In respect of payment to Old Age Pensioners residing in District Headquarters Taluk the payment was continued to be made by the District Treasury. This decentralisation was done to facilitate the watching of the annual reports from the Tahsildars regarding the continued existence and in continued destitute condition of the pensioners.

2. The system of payment of Old Age Pension has been centralised at District Treasuries as per G.O. No. FD 126 RTS 76, dated 29-4-1978. In view of the large number of cases in which old age pensions was sanctioned as a result of the special drive by the Deputy Commissioners, and other revenue officers, the Sub-Treasury Officers